(d) if so, whether Government propose to check quality of water from their other units as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No BIS licence has been cancelled so far due to the presence of pesticide residues in bottled water. Only Stop Marking was imposed on some manufacturers of Packaged Drinking Water/Natural Mineral Water after observing deviations from the specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards. Stop Marking instructions are issued in case of unsatisfactory performance/failure of samples. The stop marking does not mean the cancellation of the licence. Under the stop marking, the manufacturer is not allowed to put the BIS mark on their product till the corrective actions are taken by the manufacturers which are duly verified by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

(c) and (d) Some manufacturers may have more than one manufacturing plant in other parts of the country. Each such plant constitutes a separate licensee. Monitoring of performance of individual licence is done separately as per the Scheme of Testing and Inspection irrespective of the performance of its sister units operating in other parts of the country.

Functioning of Consumer Fora

3626. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the National Consumer Forum and the fora in the States are not functioning efficiently due to the lack of facilities including ministerial staff;

(b) how many cases have been filed and disposed of by both the National and States Consumer Fora during the last three years; and

(c) what facilities are planned to be provided to make them efficient and what budgetary support would be required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) According to the provisions of the Consumer Protections Act, 1986, the responsibility for setting up of the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions in the States and UTs and their effective functioning rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. However, to strengthen the infrastructure for effective functioning of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions in the States and UTs, Central Government has provided a one time financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs per State Commission and Rs. 10 lakhs per District Forum during 1995-99. Similarly, the responsibiility of setting up of the National Commission and its effective functioning rests with the Central Government. Necessary infrastructure including supporting staff and funds have been provided to the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission for its effective functioning.

As per the information made available by the National Commission, 19, 91, 131 cases have been filed before the consumer disputes redressal agencies, set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, out of which 16,50,919 cases (82.9%) have already been disposed of by them since their inception, which is a considerable achievement by any standard.

Threat by FCI to Foodgrains for Mid-day Meal Scheme

3627. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has threatened to stop the supplies for the mid-day meal scheme for Primary Schools unless the Ministry of HRD pays up its arrears upto Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting with the Ministry of HRD took place in this regard so as to resolve the issue amicably; and